



### Praises!

- Finally home!
- Joanna helping
- Bible institute

### Prayer Requests

- Bible institute
- Re-integration into life and ministry in Colombia
- Ipialis and San Juan church plant growth



### Finally Home!

What a joy it is to finally be back home in Pasto! The last several months have seemed like a roller coaster. We have looked forward to returning to life and ministry in Colombia.

This time the trip back was much easier as the kids knew they were going “home.” It has been neat to see them “teach” Aunt Joanna what things are like in Colombia and to see their enthusiasm for the life here. We are grateful that my sister is here with us in Colombia the next year or so while she completes her “Mapper’s” internship with Baptist World Mission. For young people who may be praying about serving the Lord in missions, we highly recommend a program like the Mappers program so you can learn life and work on the mission field.

### Bible Shipment

Praise the Lord and thank you to all who prayed for the Bible shipment! After much waiting and negotiating, the container finally arrived in Pasto the end of May. Pastor Ceron has been very gracious to allow the Bibles to be kept at his church. Please pray for the distribution process. We have already sent three pallets of Bibles to pastors in Colombia and another three pallets to pastors in Venezuela. Please pray this week that the Bibles will get into Venezuela without any problems.

### San Juan and Ipialis

It was like a family reunion to be back in the Ipialis church plant. Many of the same folks are still faithfully attending, as well as many new people. We are so grateful God has allowed us to partner with Pastor Joel in this church plant. Please pray for continued spiritual growth among the people and for the numerical growth of the church. Also, that God would raise up a national pastor for the church.

In our last letter, we had mentioned spiritual opposition in San Juan. The false teaching of the lady in the rehabilitation center has had a negative impact and confused the men. Carlos

continues to preach faithfully there, but now has to spend time to try and “un-teach” and combat the confusion of the men. The Bible club continues to go well. We are grateful a few of the children have come to the church as a result. About a week before we arrived, Brother Carlos and his family held a special Mother’s Day celebration in San Juan. Fifty-two people came for the special day! Please pray for them to return and to be saved.

### Joanna

We have been blessed that my sister Joanna is serving here with us. She has already been a big help in the music, both with her violin and by playing the piano in San Juan and Ipialis. Lord willing, she will be helping give music classes as an evangelistic outreach. Folks here love music and it is a huge door opener for parents who otherwise would be closed to the Gospel. Please pray for Joanna as she continues to learn Spanish, helps in the children’s and music ministry, and begins music classes. Also, please pray for her as she seeks God’s will concerning her long-term service in Colombia.



### Visas

God answered your prayers concerning the children’s visas. Last week, we registered our visas with immigration here in Pasto and had no problems. Thank you for your prayers with us as we have worked through this process. Please pray now with us for my sister. We were disappointed that Colombia rejected her visa application in May. The new visa laws have made it almost impossible to get a religious visa. Now for a ministry to sponsor a person, they have to demonstrate an average of \$25,000 a month income by showing the last six months of bank statements. We know of several missionaries who have experienced problems recently trying to renew their visas and some have had to leave the country. We are grateful our daughter is a Colombian citizen and that we had begun the process to change from religious visas to resident visas right before the new laws were passed. Even though it was a difficult process, God was protecting us and giving us a way to stay.



### Bible Institute

Two weeks ago, I began teaching a block class in Old Testament Survey for Lighthouse Baptist Bible Institute here in Pasto. We are grateful for missionary James Roe starting the Bible institute. Please pray for him to be able to get a visa for increased ministry here in Colombia. Also, please keep the students and me in prayer as I teach this summer.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support for our family and ministry! We would not be here without you!

In Christ,  
Matt Smith for the family  
Missionaries to Colombia

